ANNUAL REPORT

WESTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

2011

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

DEDICATION

Elizabeth Anderson

This year's Town Report is dedicated to Elizabeth Anderson, of South Road, a very active volunteer in our community for many years. One of the earliest examples of her service was her appointment to the Bicentennial Committee in 1975. She was appointed an Election Officer in 1982 and is still a regular worker at our elections. She also was a member of the Cultural Council and the Historical Commission for several years, serving as Secretary for both.

Liz was appointed to the Council on Aging in 2002 and served on the Program Committee and as Secretary before becoming Chair in 2005. Liz has brought her professionalism, competence, and enthusiasm to the Board, organizing the records, writing grants, administering aid programs, attending numerous meetings, setting up an office in the Annex, and developing a plan to hire the first paid Council on Aging Coordinator to carry on in her stead. Liz selflessly recognized the time had come to provide a more structured leadership position for the growing number of seniors in our town.

We want to thank Liz for her commitment and dedication to our community. Liz is the type of person who works behind the scenes and does not seek recognition for herself. We are glad to take this opportunity to publicly recognize her contributions and say a sincere "thank you" for all she has done.

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

January 2011 began with John Shaw as Chair, Brian Mulvehill as Clerk and Jim Huston as the third member of the Selectboard. The Board reorganized after the June election, with Jim Huston as Chair, Brian Mulvehill as Clerk, and John Shaw re-elected to the board. We thank all board, departments and volunteers for their continued invaluable service to the Town. There are vacancies on several boards and we encourage anyone interested to contact the Selectboard to volunteer.

The year 2011 was dominated by weather events. The Januarý storm, Tropical Storm Irene and the October snowstorm all affected our community, but we were fortunate to have escaped the extensive damage experienced by other cities and towns throughout the Northeast. We were also very fortunate to have an excellent emergency response team in place and give heartfelt thanks to the Fire, EMS, Police and Highway Departments for their responsiveness and professionalism throughout these events.

In response to the October storm, John Shaw took the lead to arrange meetings with emergency personnel and interested residents to develop a plan to improve communication and response should such an unusual event with an extended power outage occur in the future. This is a work in progress with plans to do a survey of vulnerable residents, organize volunteers throughout town to check on neighbors, set daily meetings to share information and set up a warming center where people could find a hot drink, charge cell phones, and socialize.

Board of Health: Daniel Wasiuk was appointed to the Board of Health to fill the vacancy left after the June election. Tom Martin kept the Selectboard informed about ongoing projects including single stream recycling, the Hazardous Waste Day being held in town, and the District Health Officer grant application, which the Selectboard voted not to join, on the advice of the Board of Health.

Council on Aging: On the advice of Liz Anderson, long time volunteer head of the Council on Aging, the board advertised for the Town's first official COA coordinator to be paid a stipend through town and grant funding. Several candidates were interviewed and Priscilla (Pat) Miller was chosen for the position. We thank Liz for her invaluable help with this process, and for her years of service to the

town's elders. In other COA business, the Board approved additional funding for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority for transporting seniors, subject to approval of the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee: The Board worked with Finance Committee to propose adjustments to salaries in order to be more competitive with other towns when positions need to be filled. This Committee currently has two vacancies and it is a great place to start in town government as you get a full overview of how the town functions.

Highway Department: David Blakesley continues to meet with the Selectboard biweekly to keep us up to date with the Highway Department activities. The Department kept very busy cleaning up after the three major weather events, as well as a snowy winter. David submitted three rounds of paperwork to FEMA for the three events, resulting in over $50,000 in reimbursements.

In January, the board voted to allow deficit spending for Snow Removal. In March, a job description for Highway Crew Members was adopted. Also in March, the Board voted to post "no parking this side of street signs" from the corner of North and Stage Roads past the library driveway. In April, approval was received from the State for speed limit zones on South Road and the Highway Department put up the signs. In June, the Board signed the Shared Brush Mower agreement, with Huntington as the new lead town and also signed Chapter 90 project requests for work on number of town roads. In August, the Board began the process of filling the vacancy left by the departure of Mike Robbins. Several candidates were interviewed and Scott Tirrell was hired, effective September 26, 2011.

We want to thank David and his crew for their very competent care of the town roads as well as their continued willingness to assist with repairs and projects at town buildings such as the Town Hall, Annex and Library, which is a great help to the town.

Library: The Board has been meeting with the Library Trustees to resolve the confusion about the Conservation Restriction language which was in the deed and special town meeting article transferring the parsonage from the Friends of the Library to the Town. It was agreed to seek advice from Town Counsel before proceeding.

Open Space Committee: The Board approved the draft Open Space Plan which will be valid for 7 years, once approved by the State. Thanks to the Committee for their perseverance in updating the Plan. The Committee also worked on fund-raising to protect the Skibiski property on Mineral Hill. A Conservation Restriction was signed by the Selectboard. This property is now owned by the Kestral Land Trust.

Public Safety: Both Fire Chief Chris Norris and Police Chief David White meet with the Selectboard regularly to keep us informed about their Departments. Chief White has been updating department policies, has worked with us to improve the safety at the North Road/Easthampton Road intersection, and has assisted on several complaints brought to the Selectboard. Chief Norris has continued to be successful at writing grants to benefit the department and the town. He has also been successful in recruitment and retention to maintain the high quality volunteer force that serves our community.

Other Business:

- Approved road closings for Memorial Day, the Fall Festival and the Halloween Party.
- The town's unfunded health insurance liability was calculated to be $1.16 million.
- Heard complaints re noise issues on Northwest Road and Lyman Road
- Agreed to pursue enforcement of the junkyard on Main Road, apparently operating without a license.
- Approved ballot questions for the June election for capital exclusions for a backhoe, and a Fire Department vehicle, as well as to change the Town Clerk from elected to appointed. The backhoe and changing the Clerk position both passed.
- Voted to hire Tim Towne to paint the Annex.
- Free Cash was certified at $163,319.
- Sought special legislation to validate the April Town Caucus for an error in posting, as well as to change the quorum for caucus from 25 to 15. This was approved by the legislature in November.
- Continued to work with Jacquelyn Burgin of the Hilltown Community Development Corporation on the accessibility grant application for the annex. $3000 was approved to pay to HCDC for half the cost of preparing the application. We will find out if funding is approved in the Spring.

Appointments:

Tessa Dowling as Library Custodian
Catherine Shaw to Board of Registrars and as an Election Worker
Anne Lewis to the Cultural Council
Louise Jasionkowski to the Council on Aging
Patricia W. Cotton as Town Clerk
David Antosz to the Capital Planning Committee
Jaimee Roncone to the Elementary School Committee
Robert Dragon to the Historical Commission

Resignations:

Erin Blakesley as Town Clerk
Sally Lawton from the Council on Aging

The Selectboard meets every other Monday at 7:00 at the Town Hall. Please feel free to stop in with questions or concerns. We encourage you to take advantage of the Town website, www.westhampton-ma.com, for information about town departments and events.

In closing, we thank all town officers, boards, committees and employees for their service to our Town. You all contribute to making Westhampton a special place to live.

Respectfully submitted,

James Huston, Chair
Brian Mulvehill, Clerk
John F. Shaw Jr.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerk. The State recommends not printing the names of births due to privacy regulations.

Births 6

Westhampton welcomed 4 girls and 2 boys

Marriages 3

7/31/2011	Reed Thomas Hathaway to Lindsey Ann Dodd
9/3/2011	Erin Ann Blakesley to Christopher Michael Tautznik
10/15/2011	Sean P. Rourke to Jennifer Marie Laprade

Deaths 13

1/7/2011	Daniel W.Duffy
2/22/2011	Constance A. Witherell
3/1/2011	Percy W. Fuller
5/16/2011	Frank W. Munson
6/22/2011	Jeffrey W. Collins
7/26/2011	Rene Joly
8/8/2011	Rolland E. Spencer
8/25/2011	Donald P. Morin
11/15/2011	Ernestine W. Munson
11/16/2011	Anthony W. Stefan
11/11/2011	Hugh F. Cunningham
11/29/2011	Claire Loud
12/19/2011	Elwood W. Beebe

DOG LICENSES FOR 2010:

	# Sold	
Males	4	$ 32.00
Females	3	$ 24.00
Spay	41	$164.00
Neuter	40	$160.00
Total Dog Licenses		**$380.00**
Kennels 4 dogs or less	1	$15.00
Kennels 10 dogs plus	2	$100.00
Total Kennel Licenses		**$115.00**

Dog Licenses are available in March each year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th and a current rabies certificate is required. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June deadline is subject to fines and penalties.

Town Clerk Fees Collected

Burial Permits	8	$ 160.00
Death Certificates	68	$ 340.00
Birth Certificates	9	$ 45.00
Marriage License	4	$ 80.00
Marriage Certificates	21	$ 105.00
Business Certificate	7	$ 140.00
Copy of Bylaws	2	$ 30.00
Voter Extract	1	$ 20.00
Total		**$ 920.00**

Population from Federal Census 1608

Total Registered Voters	**1208**
Democrats	232
Republicans	123
Green-Rainbow	5
Unenrolled	824
Designation	24

At the Annual Town Election June 4, 2011, it was voted to amend the Town bylaw by changing the Town Clerk from an elected to an appointed position. At a special Town Meeting on June 20, 2011 it was voted to change the quorum at caucus from 25 to 15 people. The changes to bylaws were submitted and approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General.

The Town Clerk holds office hours Monday night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Friday mornings from 8:00 AM to noon. If you can not make it during these hours, please call 413-203-3080 and I will be glad to meet you at another time. Services included providing copies or birth, death and marriage certificates; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, business licenses and special permit/variance applications; voter registration; and information needed for all elections. I am looking for anyone available to work elections, so if you are interested, please let me know. All meetings and agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office and in the mailbox in front of town hall or, if you have internet access, the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton, Town Clerk

I have reviewed the Town Clerk's records and find this report to be thorough and accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

	Real Estate Balances as of June 30, 2011	Personal Property Balances as of June 30, 2011	Motor Vehicle Balances as of June 30, 2011
2011	$115,107.00	$9,208.00	$18,436.00
2010	$60,039.00	$4,730.00	$2,463.00
2009	$28,747.00	$2,132.00	$1,329.00
2008	$23,029.00	$1,271.00	$1,192.00
Prior Years	$53,678.00	$11,001.00	$14,854.00
TOTAL	$280,600.00	$28,342.00	$38,274.00

Grand Total $347,216.00

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

1st quarter - August 1
2nd quarter - November 1
3rd quarter - February 1
4th quarter - May 1

To keep postage to a minimum, only two mailings will continue with two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2010	$752,903.66
Receipts	5,742,695.67
Disbursements	5,820,110.50
Balance June 30, 2011	$ 675,488.83

Easthampton Savings Capital CD	1,007.16
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	91,414.87
Easthampton Savings Sweep	108,708.05
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	7,949.28
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	2,166.39
MMDT General	62,350.02
MMDT Cultural Council	3,247.63
MMDT Septic Grant	78,761.30
Peoples Checking	5,987.31
Peoples Collector	8,000.97
Peoples Money Market	59,736.87
Peoples Septic	5,215.24
Unibank	202,602.39
Unibank Online Collection	2,926.76
MMDT Charity Trust	3,415.56
MMDT Cemetery Trust	3,737.44
MMDT Veterans Trust	2579.62
MMDT Stabilization Fund	25,682.07

Balance June 30, 2011	$675,488.83

Interest earned - $5,288.45.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	Totals
Assets						
Cash	$ 361,313	$ 267,381		$ 46,795		$ 675,489
Investments						
Taxes Receivable:						
Real property	282,263					282,263
Personal property	28,342					28,342
Other Taxes						
Tax liens	4,941					4,941
	315,546					315,546
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	99,703					99,703
	215,843					215,843
Other Receivables:						
Motor vehicle and other excise	39,609					39,609
Commonwealth of Massachusetts						-
	39,609					39,609
Amounts to be Provided for Retirement of Long-Term Debt					985,000	985,000
Total Assets	$ 616,765	$ 267,381		$ 46,795	$ 985,000	$ 1,915,941

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities:					
Accrued Payroll	$ 75,120	$ 10,362			$ 85,482
Deferred revenue -Property	210,902				210,902
Deferred revenue - Other Taxes	504				504
Deferred revenue - Tax Liens	4,941				4,941
Deferred revenue - MVE	39,105				39,105
Temporary Loan					-
Long-term debt				985,000	985,000
Total Liabilities	330,572	10,362		985,000	1,325,934
Fund Balances:					
Reserved:					
Continuing Approriations	8,200				8,200
Encumbrances	14,050				14,050
Expenditures					
Unreserved:					
Designated		257,019	46,795		303,814
Undesignated	263,943				263,943
Total Fund Balances	286,193	257,019	46,795		590,007
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$ 616,765	$ 267,381	$ 46,795	$ 985,000	$ 1,915,941

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER
JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

Cash on Hand June 30, 2010		
General/Special	**$717,576.67**	
Stabilization	**$25,602.22**	
Trust	**$9,724.77**	**$752,903.66**
Cash on Hand June 30, 2010		

RECEIPTS

TAXES		
Property	3,482,805.53	
In Lieu of Taxes	15,829.93	
Motor Vehicle Excise	201,912.04	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	15,717.05	3716264.55
COMM MASS		
Local Aid/Lottery	122,959.00	
Exemptions	9,206.00	
Extended Polling hours	270.00	
PILOT	30.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	439,666.00	
Vocational Transportation	5,180.00	
Charter School	4,927.00	
State Aid to Libraries	1,928.58	
Veterans Reimbursements	2,183.00	
Ice Storm	301.00	
Medicaid	15,274.47	601925.05
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	403.96	
Board of Health Emergency Prep	5,900.00	
COA – Federal	1,500.00	
COA – State	3,500.00	
Cultural Council	3,870.00	
Library Gifts	3,267.81	
Library Project State Grant	106,599.73	
Library Project Friends Gift	145,221.58	

Library WMECO Grant	19,225.00	
Wetlands Conservation	95.00	289583.08
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	297.00	
Board of Assessors	42.00	
Plumbing Fees	1,525.00	
Electrical Fees	2,155.00	
Sanitation Fees	275.00	
Building Permits	11,279.30	
Planning Board	202.00	
Library	95.00	
Tax Collector Fees	5,212.08	
Mark & Clear	760.00	
Town Clerk Fees	571.10	
HCOG Electricity Refund		
Medicare D Payment		
Miscellaneous/refunds	5,932.06	28345.54
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Fire Gift	500.00	
Fire Dept Grants	142885.00	143385.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	1455.00	
Gun Permits	1162.50	
Reports	40.00	2657.50
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	1,450.00	
Septic Design	450.00	
Perc Tests	875.00	
Title V	600.00	
Transfer Station Fees	41,431.00	44806.00
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Fire Dept.Revolving Fund	1,569.00	
Septic Repayment	2,574.99	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	8,766.00	12909.99

SCHOOL FUNDS		
Choice reimbursement	16,666.00	
ARRA Funds	70,894.00	
REAPS grant	23,517.00	
Kindergarten Grant	10,200.00	
Preschool	68,190.00	
Literacy Grant	6,580.00	
Building Use	1,500.00	
School Lunch	27,864.05	
Miscellaneous/refunds	572.74	225983.79
HIGHWAY		
Miscellaneous	3,767.70	
Chapter 90	123,098.91	126866.61
INTEREST		
On General Fund	4,918.47	
On Charity Funds	15.46	
On Cemetery Funds	11.40	
On Veterans Trust	7.85	
On Stabilization	79.85	
On Septic Grant	244.77	
On Cultural Council	10.65	5288.45
AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	553.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	86.50	
Deputy Collector Fees	2,203.00	
Meals Tax	35.84	
Gun Permits	3,412.50	
Police Outside Detail	9,583.53	
Payroll Deductions	528,805.24	544680.11
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**5742695.67**
NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		
TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	11780.87	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2716.41	14497.28

AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	387.75	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	86.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	4383	
Meals Tax	35.84	
Gun Permits	3637.50	
Police Detail	9455.53	
Payroll Deductions	522401.91	540387.53
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Early Literacy	3,055.00	
REAPS grant	23,516.86	
Stimulus grants	69,945.05	
Kindergarten Grant	11,287.36	
Preschool	38,625.89	
School Choice	7,863.25	
School Lunch	30,022.64	184316.05
SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Cemetery Gift	600.00	
Cemetery Revolving	6,877.36	
Cultural Council	3,452.80	
225 Celebration	2,853.20	
Council on Aging Federal	1,555.73	
Council on Aging State	3,479.62	
Fire Dept. Revolving	2,500.00	
Fire Gift	264.67	
Fire Grants	138,311.00	
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	123,099.49	
Library Gifts	2,230.12	
State Aid to Library	1,907.48	
Public Health	303.00	
Wetland Conservation	485.45	287,919.92
CAPITAL PROJECTS		
Library Project		315757.33
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		1342878.11

APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES	Budgeted	Spent
General Government		
Moderator	350.00	350.00
Selectboard Salary	3,800.00	3,800.00
Selectboard Expense	3,700.00	2,980.36
Administrative Assistant	15,497.00	15,497.00
Accounting Officer Salary	10,860.00	10,860.00
Accounting Officer Expense	2,335.00	2,051.83
Auditor Salary	350.00	350.00
Independent Audit ($13,000 CF)		13,000.00
Treasurer Salary	10,860.00	10,860.00
Treasurer Expense	5,110.00	4,589.34
Assessor Salary	7,675.00	7,675.00
Assessor Expense	7,600.00	7,509.74
Assessor Assistant	13,658.00	8,982.29
Assessor Secretary	1,654.00	1,654.00
Tax Collector Salary	13,000.00	13,000.00
Tax Collector Expense	10,953.00	9,910.28
Town Clerk Salary	8,500.00	8,500.00
Town Clerk Expense	4,430.00	3,395.29
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	100.00
Counsel Fees	5,000.00	7,320.88
Conservation Commission	265.00	150.00
Planning Board	200.00	127.50
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	280.50
Town Offices	18,040.00	16,991.80
Town Hall Upgrade	11,000.00	7,157.53
Reserve Fund	10,000.00	
	165,537.00	157,093.34
Protection of Persons & Property		
Police Chief	20,421.00	20,421.00
Police Department	31,018.00	30,876.69
Police Vehicle	36,900.00	36,850.54
Fire Chief	8,000.00	8,000.00
Fire Department	18,344.00	18,326.33
Fire Encumbrance (8232 CF)		8,087.94
Public Safety	12,515.00	12,242.02
Emergency Management	316.00	316.00
Emergency Medical Services	12,500.00	11,859.71
Inspection Salary	13,300.00	10,979.96
Inspection Expense	1,250.00	1,243.00
Tree Warden	500.00	500.00
Tree Warden Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00
	156,564.00	161,203.19

Education		
School Committee	1,080.00	1,055.07
Elementary School	1,266,000.00	1,257,239.40
Hampshire Regional	1,073,162.00	1,073,162.00
Hampshire Regional Debt	79,353.00	79,353.00
School Choice	35,150.00	15,000.00
Charter School	11,911.00	10,657.00
Vocational	290,945.00	233,779.05
Vocational Transportation	40,950.00	38,338.00
	2,798,551.00	2,708,583.52
Public Works		
Highway Salaries	185,000.00	171,229.60
Highway Department	164,800.00	164,716.05
Snow Removal	70,000.00	120,730.96
Brush Chipper	45,000.00	42,711.55
Cemetery	5,338.00	5,338.00
	470,138.00	504,726.16
Human Services		
Board of Health	72,260.00	65,518.66
Health Agent	10,000.00	4,087.50
Hilltown Resource Mgt Coop	4,493.00	4,492.74
Animal Inspector	684.00	684.00
Council on Aging	1,200.00	1,174.31
Veterans	3,337.00	11,930.27
	91,974.00	87,887.48
Culture & Recreation		
Library	72,050.00	72,048.69
Historical Commission	1,200.00	642.98
Memorial Day	100.00	
Cultural Council	75.00	
	73,425.00	72,691.67
Debt		
Highway Bldg/ Firetruck	120,000.00	120,000.00
Interest	49,100.00	49,100.00
	169,100.00	169,100.00
Intergovernmental		
Hampshire Council of Governments	381.00	1,520.80
State Assessments	13,610.00	13,570.00
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.	221.00	220.20
	14,212.00	15,311.00

Loan Repayment		100,000.00
Unclassified		
Hampshire County Retirement	113,144.00	113,144.00
Unemployment	14,000.00	
Group Health Insurance	328,000.00	308,385.71
Medicare	18,000.00	18,773.57
Insurance & Bonds	58,000.00	60,332.75
	531,144.00	500,636.03
Total Appropriation	4,470,645.00	4,477,232.39
Grand Total Expenditures		5,820,110.50

Cash on Hand June 30, 2011		
General/Special	**$640,074.14**	
Stabilization	**$25,682.07**	
Trust	**$9,732.62**	**$675,488.83**

The Town is now on a three year audit cycle and the next audit will be done for the fiscal year 2013.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2011members of the Finance Committee and their respective terms were:

Lee Craig	2011
Lisa Kennedy	2011
Maryanne Duggan	2011
Vacancy	2012
Ellice Gonzalez	2012
Margaret Parsons	2012
Kurt Heidinger	2012
Mark Thornhill	2013
Owen Bowman	2013
Vacancy	2013

Celeste Whiting was appointed to the Committee to fill one vacancy, and was elected at the June 2011 election to serve until 2013. Lee Craig and Maryanne Duggan were also re-elected for three years Lisa Kennedy resigned and her position has not been filled, again leaving 2 vacancies on the Board for the second year in a row. We encourage residents to step forward to serve on this important board. It's a great place to learn about town government.

The budget process began in late winter with each of the town departments and services completing their budget requests for the 2012 fiscal year. Budget requests were about $150,000 more than our preliminary revenues would allow. Finance Committee was committed to building up reserves and did not recommend the use of free cash to balance the budget. It was decided to put the two capital requests, totaling $138,000, on the ballot as capital exclusions thus reducing the shortfall enough to balance the budget with minor adjustments. The exclusion for the backhoe was successful; the fire vehicle did not pass. The proposed budget of $4,570,265 was approved by Annual Town Meeting with little change. The Finance Committee appreciates the cooperation of all the town departments in working with tight budgets again this year.

In September, Free Cash was certified at $163,159, which is the highest ever, and puts the Town in a good position going forward.

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Finance Committee approved the following transfers from the Reserve Fund:

$2700 to Counsel Fees
$4000 to Insurance & Bonds
$1140 to Hampshire Council of Governments

Finance Committee also recommended transfers from available funds at two special town meetings for the snow removal deficit and for veterans' benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Craig, Chair

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2011, the Board of Assessors recorded 59 property transfers and approved a net of 2 additional parcels under the protection of Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B. Also, the Board approved a total of 22 personal exemptions for veterans, elderly, blind persons or surviving spouses, 3 real estate abatements, 1 personal property abatement, and 82 Motor Vehicle Excise abatements.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2012 are

Real Estate - $217,787,809.
Personal Property - $5,309,726.
Exempt - $27,460,500.

This represents a decrease in real estate and exempt values, and an increase in personal property values.

The tax rate was set in December of 2011 for fiscal year 2012 at $16.40 per $1000 of value.

Assessor business can be transacted Monday & Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and the Board of Assessors meets Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

We can be reached at 413-203-3082 or westhamptonassessors @comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Dolores Thornhill
Sarah Challet

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals in 2011 was made up of Leo Aloisi, chair, Richard W. Tracy, clerk, Suzanne Wolf, John Kelsey, and Wayne Parks. There is room for three associate members on the board and we feel those positions should be filled. The purpose of associate members is so they can be at regular meetings and learn the rules and bylaws; then any time a member is absent or in conflict with an issue, an associate can fill in and keep the board at full strength. This is particularly important because anyone who appeals a ruling to the board is entitled to a five vote decision, or they can appeal that decision. Also, all decisions require a super majority (at least a 4 to 1 vote) so if any member needs to be excused it can be difficult to get a legal vote. So, any person who is interested in having good decisions being made in their town should send a letter of interest to the Selectboard saying they are interested in serving on this board.

The board meets on the second Tuesday of every month, in the Annex, at 7:00 pm.

Decisions of the board this year are a follows:

January11th, Voted to amend item 6 of the amended Comprehensive Permit for the Westhampton Woods Project. A simple wording change making it clearer for financing agencies.

May 10th, Held public hearing on an appeal concerning 114 Northwest Road.

June 14th, concluded hearing on 114 Northwest Road. Appeal upheld.

August 9th, Granted extension of operations at 91 North Road until Dec.31, 2011

September 19th, Held public hearing on application #189, seeking a special permit for #56 Pine Island Lake Granted with conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Due to the slow economy, the Planning Board reviewed and approved just a couple building lots this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2010 – 2011 brought us lots of snow. January 2011 was the snowiest January on record. F.E.M.A. offered assistance for one of the many storms during that month. We applied for and received $11,960.00 for this one storm. A total of $120,730.96 was spent on snow removal.

Our tree and brush work continued again this year. W.M.E.CO. assisted us with taking down 20 plus hazardous trees near their power lines.

Annual Town meeting 2011 voted to replace our 17 year old JCB backhoe . Bids were solicited and in September the Selectboard awarded the bid to Liftech Equipment. December 29th, a new JCB Backhoe was delivered. It is basically the same spec. machine we had, and hopefully it will serve us as well as our old one did.

In the spring, all paved roads and parking lots were swept, and during summer all catch basins were checked and cleaned as needed.

As mentioned in last years report, the S.A.M. Seal on Southampton Road was re-inspected in early spring, and it was decided that the only way to correct the problems would be to completely redo the process along the entire length. The contractor, All States Asphalt, returned in late spring to do just that at no cost to the town. Having it fail the first time actually worked in the Town's favor, as that road now has two applications of rubberized asphalt for the price of one.

During the summer beavers were trapped and removed from the Lyman Road and Rte. 66 sites.

Tob Road Bridge

During the winter two of the five steel stringers failed due to deteriorization. Fortunately, we had a steel road plate long enough to span the abutments, allowing the bridge to remain open until we could get new stringers and planks. Once the materials were delivered and ready to put in place, we dismantled the old structure and assembled the new pieces, and in about six hours we had a brand new bridge deck that will last a long time.

Other Projects

The department did all the excavating and related site work for the addition to the back of the Safety Complex. It is always a pleasure working with Wally Marek.

Two deteriorated cross culverts were replaced on "Orcutt Hill". One new catch basin was added also.
Two existing basins were repaired on Stage Road.
One new cross culvert was installed on Burt Road.
Drainage improvements were started at the intersection of Laurel Hill & Edwards roads. Work will continue there this year.
All the wooden guard railings were replaced in Loudville near the old Loudville Store.

Chapter 90 Projects

All of Loudville Road was shimmed and over-laid with black top. While the paving crew was in town, the final coat of black top was put down on the new Library parking lot.

1.5 miles of North road and 1.5 miles of Northwest road were oiled and stoned.

Crack sealing was scheduled on various roads but due to the wet summer the contractor got behind and was unable to get here before cold weather. Hopefully we can get the work done under the current contract before the end of June.

F.E.M.A.

Tropical Storm Irene brought us lots of rain in August that caused minor wash outs on our gravel roads, Then in late October we were hit with an early snow storm that gave us over two feet of snow town wide. F.EM.A. offered assistance for both of these storms as well as the January snow storm mentioned at the beginning of this report. As a result of these three storms in calendar year 2011, we shall receive a total of $51,905.71 in reimbursements from F.E.M.A.

In September, Scott Tirrell began working for the department. Scott comes to us with a solid background in mechanics, metal fabrication and welding.

I thank Bill, Jerry and Scott for all they do.

Also, I wish to thank Mike Robbins for his years of hard work and dedicated service to the department. We all wish him well.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Police Department is to provide professional, community oriented services to the residents of Westhampton. Over the past year, our officers proactively worked to keep the homes and streets of the town safe and secure. The department continues to work with the fire and highway departments to accomplish the overall task of providing public safety to members of this community.

The following is a synopsis of calls for service in 2011:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Emergency/paged out calls	132	232	330	289	282	361
To include:						
- Arrests/summons	4	10	10	13	7	9
- Disturbances	17	11	3	3	6	10
- Breaking Entry	6	5	3	4	2	6
- Larcenies	12	6	6	6	7	6
- Domestic Calls	5	6	6	4	4	5
-Assault	1	2	1	3	3	5
- alarms/911 hang up/ misdials	45	63	121	85	49	94
-Suspicious Persons/ Vehicles	24	18	19	15	12	16
- Medical/Fire Assists	13	18	8	16	14	18
- Accidents	16	19	41	28	14	26
- Officer assistance	20	26	64	50	64	106
- Vandalism	5	21	6	7	11	6
Non emergency messages at the station -Approx..					447	600

As always, the department is open to constructive suggestions to improve service. Any input can be emailed or called into the office at 527-6154. The non-emergency line is checked at least twice per day. Please leave a message and your call will be returned. If you have an emergency, please call 911. This urgent call will go to the State Police Barracks in Northampton and a Westhampton officer will be paged out. In the event a town officer is not available, the Massachusetts State Police will respond to assist.

Firearms applications are accepted on the second Wednesday of each month. Pictures are no longer required to apply. The application may be downloaded off our website at WesthamptonPolice@Yahoo.com. This website also offers a variety of links and forms that may be useful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

D. White #671

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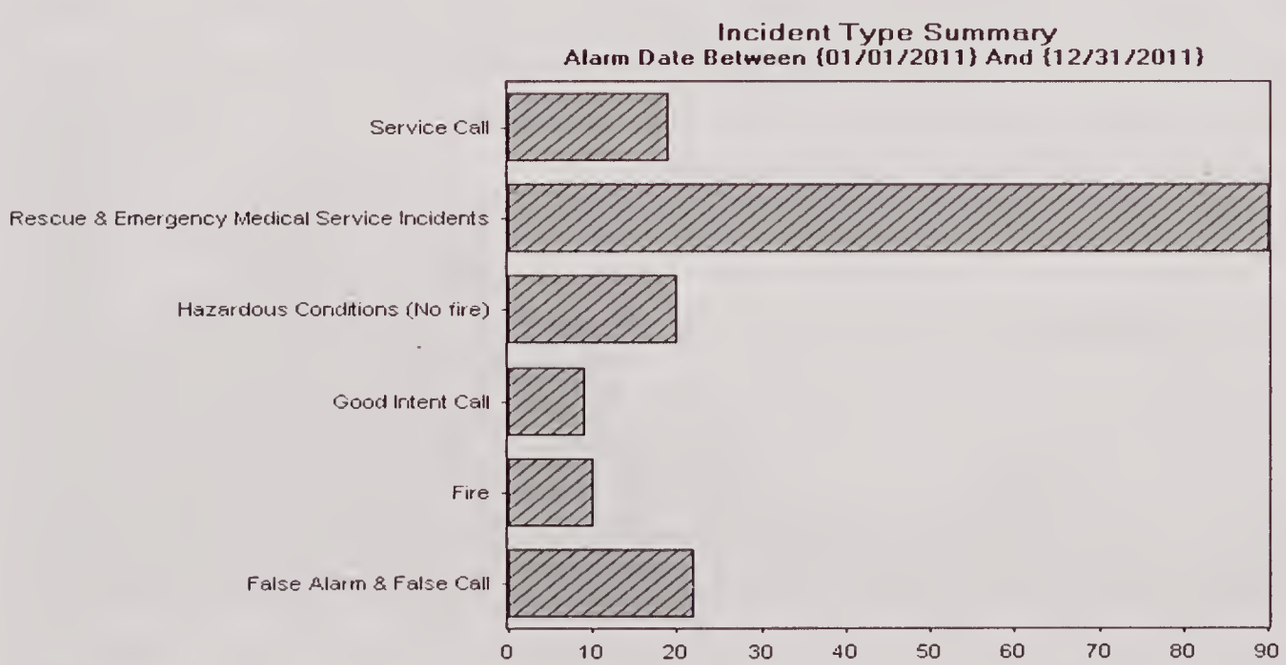
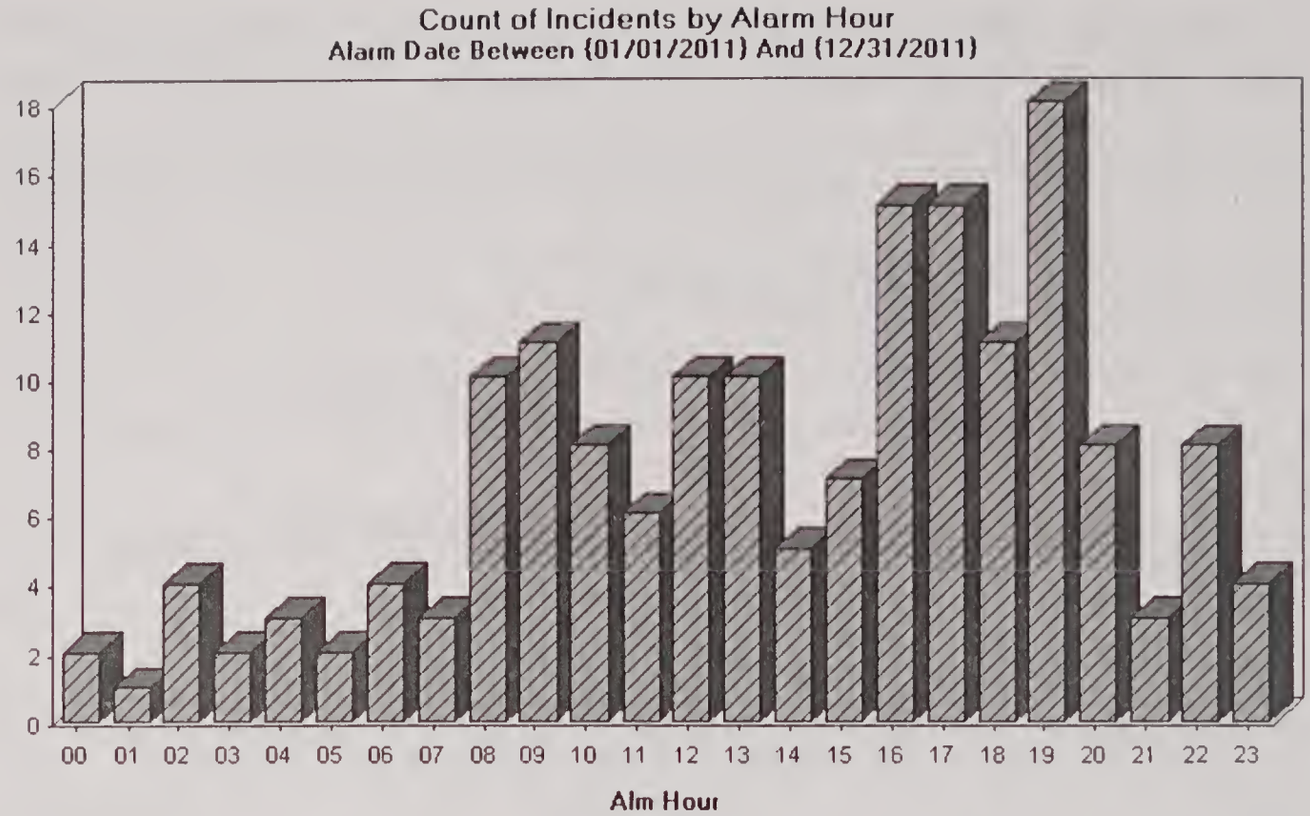
REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department had another busy year in 2011 providing emergency services to the community. The Department responded to one-hundred and seventy-three calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, and many more. The following graphs give a visual depiction of these emergency responses over the last year and the time of day personnel are being called to respond to these emergencies.



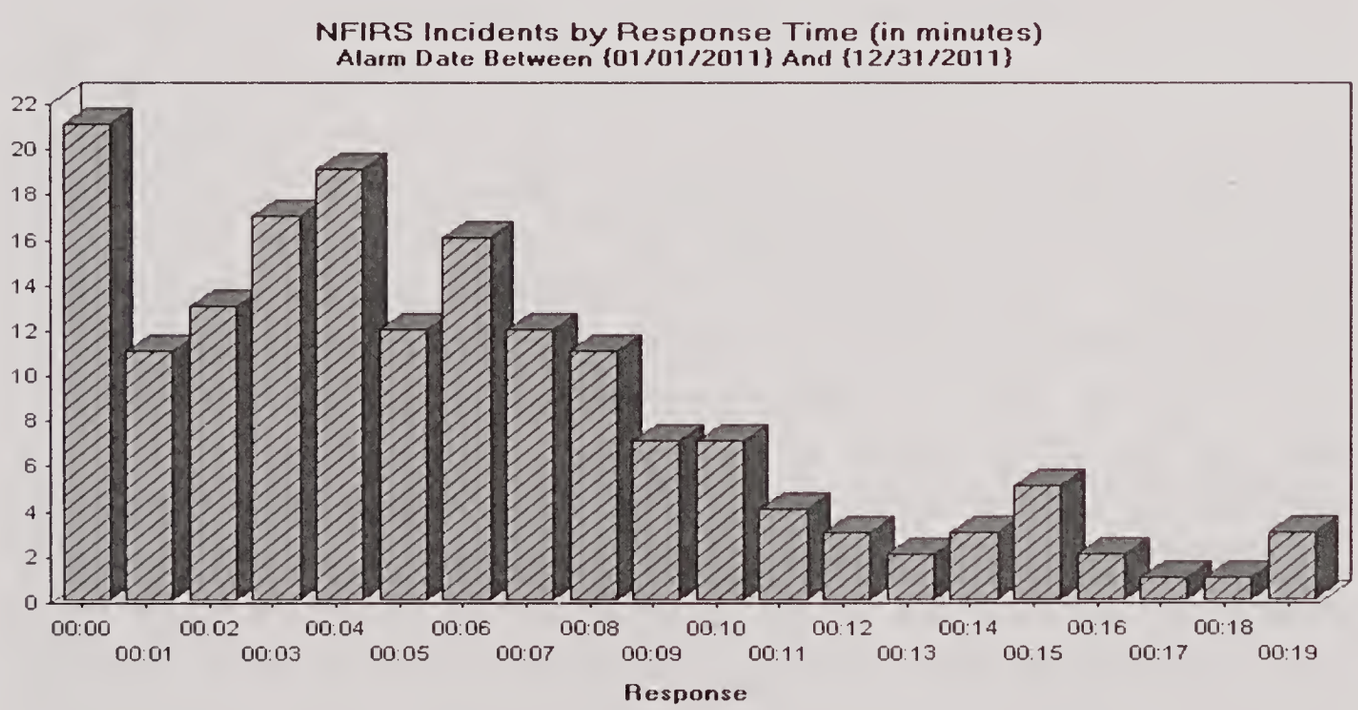


The Department's fleet of apparatus consists of a 2004 Engine, a 1986 Engine, a 1990 garage truck cab and chassis with a milk truck body converted into a Water Tanker, a 2002 Brush Truck, and a 2009 Rescue Truck. All vehicles are checked by Department personnel on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. In addition, the Town's Highway Department has been a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, completing all routine maintenance, fluid changes, and upkeep of the vehicles. The vehicle maintenance program, as established, helps to prolong the expected life-span of the vehicles and improve the safety during emergency responses. Again this year, we had both Engines professionally pump-tested to ensure adequate pump performance as determined by the manufacturers. These testing procedures are also reflected in the Department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus.

The Department also had all of the fire hose pressure tested to ensure adequate operational effectiveness. National Standards recommend that this is done once a year, and in addition, it is reflected in the ISO ratings that this testing procedure be done to minimize the insurance rates in Town. More important, to ensure the safety of all members utilizing fire hose during operational procedures, it is our responsibility that they are provided with equipment that is safe and functioning to the highest standards. The testing revealed that the Department did have fire hose in service that did not pass the required pressure rating. These were removed from service and replaced with some of the spare

hose that was also tested and passed the requirements. These testing requirements demonstrated that this was a project that was needed and should be continued each year to help ensure that the integrity and operational capacity of the equipment is maintained. We also had all of our ground ladders tested to the National Standards, ensuring they could meet the performance requirements during emergency operations. All of these projects are critical to properly maintaining all of the equipment and ensuring the highest degree of safety for our personnel utilizing these resources.

One of the greatest challenges faced by volunteer departments across the country is the recruitment and retention of department members. Greater demands on training, increasing call volumes and the balance of a full time job and family all require a delicate balance that can minimize the number of people interested in becoming a member. The Town of Westhampton has been very fortunate over the years, given the difficulties seen by other departments, to maintain this type of department and the high level of performance and services provided by these individuals. The department currently has thirty-five volunteer members and is always seeking new members to help serve the community. These volunteers are vital to keeping the overall cost for services down while at the same time performing a critical service needed in the community. As seen in the graph below, even as a volunteer Department, personnel are arriving on the scene in less than ten minutes 90% of the time.



Per capita, based on the 2011 census published in last year's Town Report, Westhampton residents pay approximately $10.50 for fire protection each year. This would not be remotely possible if it wasn't for all of the dedicated volunteers in the Department. In continuing to build out our department, we were proud to welcome Keith Robbins, Zach Kareta, and Alex Philbrook to the Department as new members. The Department is always looking for new volunteers and anyone who is ever interested is encouraged to call the Department and speak with the Chief.

There are a number of capital projects that the Fire Department is going to need input and support on from the community in the immediate future. The largest of these is a need for a new Public Safety Complex to meet the growing demands of the community. The current facility is reaching sixty years old and no longer is able to accommodate the demands placed on the public safety services (Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management). In addition, one of the Engines is twenty-five years old and has reached its life expectancy. However, no new Engine available will fit in the current facility given the current size and parameters. All of these items have been forwarded to the Town Capital Improvements Committee with emphasis placed on a new building. We will continue to explore all available funding options to minimize the financial impact on the community, but the conversation needs to continue in order to plan and prepare for vehicles and equipment for the next ten to twenty-five years and a facility that will continue to meet the service demands for the next fifty plus years.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the personnel in the Department for their continued support and dedication to the Town and the Department. It continues to be an absolute pleasure and honor to work for all of them and be part of an organization that cares so much about their community. The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residents swimming pools and the water tanks at the Town Cemetery, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and decrease response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few healthy and vigorous volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very

dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community. Thank you and have a safe and healthy year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Norris
Fire Chief/Emergency
Manager

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health conducts meetings the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. This year we welcome new Board member Dan Wasiuk. Board of Health business is normally conducted on Fridays of most weeks, by our part-time health agent Josh Mathieu. Josh can be reached at 413-627-5587.

The Board of Health continues to be responsible for the enforcement of the State Sanitary Code: including inspections of food establishments, school kitchens, campgrounds, housing complaints, nuisance complaints, septic systems, solid waste and disease surveillance.

The Board wishes to thank Ted Brooks for his help ensuring our residents' septic systems are properly installed.

The Board continues to oversee operations at our transfer station, with the help of our attendant John Guimond, the DPW and Hilltown Resource Management Coalition. We want to thank John Guimond for his many years of service and welcome Don Fox as our new transfer station attendant.

The Board spent a good deal of effort this year trying to establish a Regional Health District in Hampshire County. These efforts were time consuming and ultimately unproductive, as efforts to resolve the public health concerns of small communities with those of area cities.

Board members continue to be involved with our state mandated emergency planning partners the Hampshire Emergency Preparedness

Coalition. Without a clearly defined mandate or focus, the Coalition shows signs of stress and future uncertainty.

Submitted Respectfully,

Tom Martin, chair
Dan Wasiuk
Bob Turner

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created 23 years ago and includes the Towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton Williamsburg and Worthington. The HRMC was created by a group of dedicated volunteers from each member Town who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns with volunteer local boards that had a desire to protect the environment, become more sustainable and deal with the expensive problem of rapidly rising solid waste disposal costs. In that time the HRMC has created important environmentally beneficial cost saving recycling programs and develop long term regional and town based sustainability based programs.

The past year has seen a significant change in which the HRMC and the Hampshire Council of Governments are now working closely together on sustainability and green energy issues. In fact the HRMC Administrator now splits his time, spending ½ of each week being Administrator of the HRMC and ½ of each week being the Sustainability Director for the Hampshire Council of Governments.

WHAT PROGRAMS DOES THE HRMC HELP WITH?

The HRMC helps your Town manage disposal, recycling and sustainability related programs. The HRMC sole contracted/consultant employee is its Administrator, Eric Weiss as our one and only staff person he helps with many tasks, including;
- Solid Waste Disposal and Hauling and Contracting

- MRF Household Recycling and Hauling and Contracting
- Electronics, Paint, Propane Tank, Tire, and Clothes Recycling Programs
- Organize and Manage the Annual Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Provide Sustainability and Recycling Outreach and Education efforts
- Assisting local Boards with DEP and Compliance Related Issues
- Assisting with monitoring transfer station efforts costs and activities
- Advocating on behalf of the Towns
- Explore new green energy and sustainability programs and grants
- Assist member Towns in become Massachusetts designated "Green Communities"
- Coordinate sustainability activities and green energy programs in cooperation with the Hampshire Council of Governments
- Explore zero waste issues on behalf of member Towns

WHO MANAGES THE HRMC?

- Two residents (appointed by your Towns Board of Selectmen) from each of the ten member Towns serve on the HRMC Board which is responsible for the management and oversight of the HRMC.
- The HRMC has an annual assessment which is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The assessment based on population and the amount of tonnage handled at your Towns transfer station. The Total (for the Ten Towns combined) annual assessments are currently $39,487.56. The HRMC has reduced its assessments by 5% for each of the last 4 years and level funded its assessment budget this fiscal year.
- The HRMC also receives grant and recycling revenues to supplement its budget and many efforts on behalf of its member Communities. The HRMC continues to be a very successful effort for the Hilltown region. It has become a program which local boards of Selectmen and Health and Energy Committees have grown to depend on for sound technical assistance and guidance on recycling and sustainability issues.

HOW DOES THE HRMC HELP THE TOWNS SAVE MONEY?

The HRMC works closely with local officials in every one of its member Towns by providing information and important technical assistance to the Towns. We also help your Towns obtain access to the

resources needed for the management of successful solid waste, recycling, sustainability and new solar/wind/green energy programs.

Last fiscal year the HRMC helped the 10 member Towns:
Recycle 1129.50 tons of material
Save $73,415.50 in disposal costs
Save 6254 tons of greenhouse gas emissions
Earn over $47,322 in recycling revenue.

We look forward to continuing to assist your Town during this upcoming year. If you have any questions about recycling or have a waste disposal problem, please call us at (413) 268–3845 or (413) 687 - 3356 or email us at hrmc@crocker.com right away.1

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC
Sustainability Director, HCOG

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual farm animal census was conducted with the following results as of December 31, 2011.

Dairy Cattle	215
Beef Cattle	49
Steers	4
Goats	60
Sheep	22
Swine	2
Llama/Alpaca	4
Horse/pony	116
Donkeys	5
Chickens	320
Turkeys	3
Water Fowl	43
Guineas	2
Peafowl	12

There was one follow up inspection conducted as well. There were three ten day and one forty-five day quarantines issued. All had negative results.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

During 2011, efforts continued to improve the look and health of the grass at the cemetery. It is a challenging task because of the sandy soil located there. Loam has been purchased and spot seeding takes place as time allows. A new fertilizer/ lime spreader was purchased for use at the cemetery. This 800-pound spreader mounts on the 3-point hitch of the John Deere tractor and allows product to be applied in an efficient manner. Soil samples were taken and analyzed across the cemetery and they showed a very low pH level in the soil. Two ton of pelletized lime was spread across the cemetery grounds in April in order to help alleviate this problem. Once the soil pH is corrected, fertilizer will be applied on an annual basis.

An engineer was hired in 2010 to assist with completion of the northern expansion of the cemetery grounds. His plan will provide the proper slope for the new addition and determine whether additional material needs to be brought in. He will also assist with the layout of a new road and burial lots. The cemetery directors will be soliciting bids for this excavation work in 2011.

Altogether in 2011 there were:

9 traditional burials
12 burials of cremains
4 new monument foundations installed
3 new burial lots acquired

I want to thank Don Fox and the Fire Department for keeping the water tanks at the cemetery filled. Don faithfully checks the water level in

the two tanks every week and brings the Fire Department's brush truck over when needed to top off the water level in the tanks. This service ensures that there is plenty of water available for flowers. I would also like to thank Josh Hickey for the many times he lends assistance with the cemetery maintenance.

I would like to remind everyone that the cemetery is closed to burials and traffic during the winter months from December 1 until March 31. Also each resident who has been in town at least five years is entitled to receive a single-grave burial lot free of charge. I can be reached by phone at 527-1678.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Norris, Cemetery Caretaker

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

The year 2011 provided the much needed counseling and medical care for our returning veterans. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injuries) were major concerns.

Veteran's families also are being consulted daily for their concerns and needs. Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 115, 108 provides many avenues for benefits for the veterans and their families.

Please contact the Veterans' Office at 413 527-1715 to set up an appointment.

God Bless America!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Messier
Director of Veterans' Services

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members: Tom Jenkins, (chair), Steve Holt, Brad Morse, Fred Morrison, Bob LaPalme, (secretary)

Under **The Wetlands Protection Act**, eight "interests" are protected by town conservation commissions across the State. Those commissions process over ten thousand applications every year for permits to do work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches and surface waters, (source: Mass. Assn. of Conservation Commissions 2006).

The eight important public values subject to protection referred to as "interests" are 1. Protection of public and private water supply 2. protection of groundwater supply 3. flood control 4. storm damage prevention 5.prevention of pollution 6. protection of land containing shellfish 7. protection of fisheries 8. protection of wildlife habitat.

What follows is a brief summary of WCC activities for year 2011:

- Tom led a discussion about what he learned at the recently held MACC annual conference regarding stream crossings and standards for wildlife corridors.

- Con Com change of leadership as of April 1 will be Tom taking Chair and Steve remaining as a board member. Con Com vote was unanimous even though Steve has been an outstanding chairperson during his tenure.

- Protected Land Acquisition: The WCC voted unanimously to accept the annual monitoring obligation (conservation restriction) for the Kestral land grant property in Westhampton. To the Town of Westhampton acting by and through successors and assigns, ("Grantee"), this restriction in perpetuity and exclusively for conservation purposes.

- Con Com provided input on updated) Town Open Space Plan

Site visit	7
Determination	5
Public hearing	4
Request for Determination	2
RDA extension	1
Notice of Intent	2
Order of conditions Extension, Pine Island Lake	1
Violation concern	2
Enforcement order	1
Emergency septic repair	2

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Jenkins, Commission Chair
Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee continue to be Ellen Bartos, David Majercik, Kate Parsons, , and Rick Tracy with Rick Tracy as Chair and Ellen Bartos as Secretary.

The majority of our time in 2011 continued to be spent working on the Open Space Plan update. A final draft copy was completed by December and, as soon as we receive the needed letters of review, it will be sent to the State for final approval. We were able to create a 7 year time line so the next update will not be due until 2018. I am grateful for all the hard work that went into producing this document, especially to Ellen for typing and copying and to Kate for her work in preparing the maps.

The other highlight of our year was the completion of the Skibiski project we worked on with the City of Northampton. Thanks again to Sheila Marks for her work on fund raising. The project was completed in June with final ownership by Kestrel Land Trust and Westhampton Conservation Commission holding the Conservation Restriction (CR). Another parcel in the same area is being considered for similar protection by the City of Northampton.

Looking forward to 2012, we hope to have a final copy of the Open Space Plan submitted and to begin work on the action plan presented in that document.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy, Chair

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There were 67 building permits, and 3 annual inspections completed in 2011. $8788.40 was collected in fees for projects valued at $1,113,030.00 including public projects.
Values are rounded.

Permit Classification	Project Value	No.
Additions	148,000	2
Annual Inspections	0	3
Barns/Sheds	9,500	2
Cottage Replacement	198,200	1
Decks/Porches	39,792	6
Earth Removal	0	0
Generator	900	1
Insulation/Weatherization	13,287	5
Masonry Heater/Chimneys	22,000	1
Pellet/Wood Stoves	17,300	7
Pools	49,600	2
Renovations	198,212	9
Repairs/Foundations	220,090	9
Reroof	93,849	12
Sawmill	5500	1
Siding	78,800	5
Single Family Residence	0	0
Tent	800	1
Windows/Doors	17,200	3

Note: Building or zoning permits are required for nearly every project.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Miller
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

In 2011 there were 10 septic systems that were upgraded, 2 systems that were new and 1 system that was repaired.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector
527-4841

REPORT OF THE S.A.L.T. TRIAD

TRIAD - In 1988, three national groups: AARP, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Sheriffs Association agreed that the crime prevention needs of older citizens could be best met by their cooperative efforts. By signing an agreement, a TRIAD was formed. The National Association of Triads today requires the need for participation and leadership of three entities - law enforcement, older adult volunteers, and community service groups. In 1992, the Hampshire County TRIAD was begun by Sheriff R. Garvey.

S.A.L.T. - Seniors And Law enforcement Together

Our County Sheriffs office, Northwestern District Attorney, and Police Chief, Dave White, work with our volunteer group. Along with area service groups, we all strive to improve communication, provide information, educate, and empower older adults by focusing on safety and our well being. The first Westhampton SALT group was formed in 1994.

FREE PUBLICATIONS by Westhampton SA.L.T.

"Westhampton: Preparing for Emergencies & Disasters" -A Manual: survival kits, power outage, fire safety, storms, shelter; **"Special Wishes"** - 10 section guide: organize personal affairs; **"Where to Get Help"** - at-home help, transportation, ID theft, fraud, abuse; **"Do Not Call"**, legal services, home safety repairs; **9-1-1 Cell Phones**: Free emergency-only phones for seniors; **File of Life** - Your critical medical info card to put on fridge, in your car/ wallet to assist all responding emergency personnel.

2011 PROJECTS COMPLETED

National Prescription Take-Back Day: assisted our Police in sponsoring events: Sept. 2010, April 2011, October 2011; **Paper Shredding Day Event**: assisted DA's office May, 2011 **Fund Raising Raffle**: printing/mailing for Survey - Thank you! **Survey Adults 60+**: needs assessment printed/mailed to you.

PRESENT PROJECTS

Survey Adults 60+: compiling results/a 45% return -Thank you! **Survey for Adults 55 to 60**: mailing will be sent in 2012; **"Preparing for Disasters"**: Seeking funds to print more; **Manuals Town Disaster/Emergency Planning:** Working with Town officials; **4th. National Prescription Take-Back Day**: April 28, 2012; **Driver Safety Tune-Up**: Sponsor, County Sheriff- May, 2012.

Promoting safety/well being/communication

We welcome your participation in reaching our Community goals. Monthly meetings: 2nd Friday at 10am, Westhampton Woods (F). Members: Connie Dragon. Tony Caggiano, Don Graham, Chuck Horn, David Majercik, Gerry & Charlie Ognibene, Ginny Curtis.
whsaltcouncil@comcast.net 413-529-9873 Fax: 413-203-3049

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Curtis, Chair

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Westhampton Council on Aging has had a busy year. In September the Selectboard hired Priscilla (Pat) Miller as the COA Coordinator. This is a new position for the town and for many years the Chairman of the COA board has acted in this capacity, most recently Elizabeth Anderson. A special thanks to Liz for all the work she did in that capacity!

There have been two resignations from the COA Board this year. Sally Lawton and Pat Warren had both been long time members who contributed much to the board and the organization. A special thanks to both of them for their many years of service.
The current Council on Aging board members:

Current board members are:
Louise Jasionkowski & Gale Wright..... Term ending June 2012
Jean Webster & Wendy Blow..... Term ending June 2013
Charles Ognibene, Ann Tracy and Liz Anderson..... Term ending June 2014

The focus of the Westhampton Council on Aging is to enhance the quality of life for all Westhampton residents who are age 60 and over and to provide them a variety of services and activities. This year those services included a quarterly newsletter; the H-E-N Program (Helping Elders in Need); the FRTA Transportation Program which provides transportation for seniors; monthly luncheons with informational and entertaining programs following; blood pressure checks; flu clinics; notary public services; help navigating through Medicare and other insurance programs; bus trips to the theater and other points of interest; exercise classes three days a week; as well as individual support and check-ins when needed.

The COA is grateful to the town for the funds that are voted to support the group. In addition, the COA receives grant funding from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs and a federal grant administered through the Highland Valley Elder Services.

The 423 seniors living in Westhampton are fortunate to live in a community where many are willing to donate a great deal of time to the organization. Thanks to all those volunteers who give of their time and expertise: the board members; the Salt Triad Program; the volunteers who coordinate both the HEN Program and the FRTA transportation program; the many volunteer drivers; luncheon planning committee; those who work on the Friends of the COA organization; those who send out the many cards; those who provide cupcakes for birthdays at each luncheon; those who are faithful photographers; and the many who help with our fundraising pie sale. In addition to all of these, there are many members who lend a helping hand in ways too numerous to count - thanks to all of you!

This year the COA is hoping to start a *Friends of the COA*. This will give those who would like to be a part of the Westhampton COA, but who live out of town, an opportunity to be a part of the organization. Likewise, those townspeople who would like to support the organization would be able to become members of the Friends Group, regardless of age. Watch for more information about this group in the coming year!

In addition to our local program, members of the COA Board take part in the Hilltown Councils on Aging Consortium, the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors and the Westhampton Woods Board of Directors. In addition, board members attend training sessions offered by the Office of Elder Affairs.

We encourage those seniors living in Westhampton to attend the monthly luncheons, held on the first Thursday of each month (except August!). Home cooked food, socialization, and a variety of interesting programs are available. This year the programs ran the gamut from our Intergenerational Program with the Fourth Graders, to informational programs about services available, protection from scams, storytellers, music and many more!

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Miller, Coordinator

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted $3870 (the same as last year) by the State Council to fund grant applications in FY12. $90 was allotted for expenses, so we were able to grant $3780. We received 23 grants (down from 27 last year) in total and approved 12 (13 last year.)

The following applications were approved for FY12:

- Sienna Wildfield, *Hilltown Families: A Traveling Photo Exhibition*, $150
- Friends of the Westhampton Public Library, *Birds of Prey* with Tom Ricardi, $250
- Friends of the Westhampton Public Library, *Yo Yo Guy* with John Higby, $250
- Friends of the Westhampton Public Library, *Woodland Cinderella* with Deborah Costine, $355
- Friends of the Williamsburg Library, *Hilltown Winter Concert Series*, $100
- HRHS Middle School-Green Team, Frank Grindrod, *Native Ways:Museum that Comes to You*, $500.
- Friends of the Westhampton Library/ Laurie Sanders, *Field of Dreams: Summer Concert Series*, $600.
- Hampshire Regional School PTSO, Hampshire Regional Musical, $300
- Westhampton Elementary School, UMass Fine Arts School Trip, $678
- Westhampton Elementary School, *Lean Green Clean-up Machine* with Jay Mankita, $400.
- Richard Richardson, *Heart Festival* at Three Sisters Sanctuary in Goshen, MA, $100
- Hilltown CDC, *Hilltown Spring Festival*, $100

The Council tries to present a well-balanced distribution of projects/arts/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of

Westhampton. Please contact the Selectboard and/or Julie Held or Ann Lewis, co-chairs, if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Held, Co-Chair
Robbie Heidinger
Sarah Mulvehill
Jackie Brodeur
Gale Wright

Ann Lewis, Co-Chair
Renee Schultz
Paula Murphy
John Zimmerman

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission in 2011 was made up of Richard W. Tracy chair, Dan Krug Sr., Steven Brooks, and Marion Allen. Near the end of the year the Selectboard has appointed Robert Dragon Sr. to the commission, and we welcome his enthusiasm and interest. Barbara Pelissier, chair of the Historical Society, often attends our meetings and we appreciate all the research she puts into our Town's history, and the books she has compiled.

During the year we have increased the membership of the "Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum" and hope to have that group become a vital part of our activities. In July we sponsored a Chicken Bar-B-Que at the museum, in conjunction with a "Concert on the Lawn" at the library and it was a grand night for all who attended. Steve Brooks and his friends did the cooking and the food received rave reviews. It brought new people to see the museum, and we are planning to hold a similar event in July of 2012, so mark your calendars. The other big event of the year was the Annual Fall Festival which always brings a lot of excitement to the town and we are already making plans for museum activities during 2012's Festival. The museum is open every Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and on request for special events.

Other improvements, that we hope will add to visitors comfort, are a year round Porta Potty at the museum, and Steve has installed an electric heater in the new kitchen room. This heater has allowed us to hold meetings at the museum all year around. Maybe we should put a heater in the Porta Potty too, what do you think? We meet on the third

Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, in each month except December. We certainly welcome anyone who has an interest in learning about and preserving the history of all those who have created this wonderful town for us to live in and enjoy.

We will ask the Finance Committee for funding in 2012 to replace the roofing on all of the main building. This is becoming a serious need and we hope for your support at Annual Meeting.

We thank everyone who has been involved and helped during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chairman

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This year, the Westhampton Public Library (WPL) has proven itself a vibrant center for community learning, gathering, and access to a wide range of information resources. This success results from community-wide collaboration, an experienced professional staff, and vigorous volunteer activities.

Thanks to the exceptional dedication and efforts of the Library Building Committee, the WPL was awarded LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2011. This makes it the only LEED Gold public library in Massachusetts. In addition, the library received a 2011 Stavros Accessibility Award from Stavros Advocates for Independent Living.

The library is overseen by a six-member, elected Board of Trustees that meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The Board sets policy, oversees finances and the physical plant, and supervises and evaluates the library director. The Trustees have nearly completed a thorough review of all policies to assure they are up-to-date and supportive of expanded services, attendance, and materials usage in the new building.

The library is staffed by a full-time director and a part-time youth services librarian. Director Carolyn Keating has served for 21 years with professionalism and responsiveness to patron needs and interests. Staff librarian Hilary Nolan creates and coordinates children's programming and ably carries out general library duties. The library also benefits from the service of many dedicated volunteers who assist with technical and clerical services. Volunteer hours allow the director more time to focus on day-to-day management responsibilities, which have expanded with the new facility.

At the close of 2011, 1007 Westhampton residents held library cards. Resources available to patrons include printed books, audio books (on CD and as downloads), ebooks, DVDs, and periodicals. Patrons may also obtain materials via interlibrary loan, which in 2011 totaled 3055 items from other libraries. WPL provided 4,892 items to other libraries through interlibrary loan. In total, WPL circulated a total of 23,738 items by the close of 2011. Library users also visit the library to use its new computer equipment and take advantage of Wifi Internet access. Staff is available to offer help with technology as needed.

In addition, the ongoing fund-raising, advocacy, and programming work of the Friends of the Westhampton Public Library make possible a breadth of programming that reaches all constituencies of the Westhampton community. In the last year, programming expanded dramatically. The library hosted 158 programs with 1910 attendees. Performances, lectures, exhibits, and youth activities attracted participants of all ages.

Adult programming in 2011 included art exhibits, movies, a book group, the "Grown in Westhampton" series, a memoir-writing workshop, and many other events.

Programs for children and families included Preschool Storytime, a Tween writing group, movies, Lego Club, American Girl Club, yo-yo performers, an Angelina Ballerina program, Drumming with Otha Day, a fencing program, a bubble performer, Animal World, Ed the Wizard, a program about bees with Tony Ryan, and more.

Many state and local groups met in the library throughout the year. These included Friends of the Westhampton Public Library, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Hilltown Resource

Management Cooperative (HRMC), the teen group "Nature Nerds," Westhampton Women's Club, Open Space Committee, Library Building Committee, Pine Island Lake Association, Hampshire Regional Schools administrators, Fall Festival Committee, AP History study group, Pioneer Valley History Network, Westhampton Cultural Council, Red Oak Neighborhood Association, and the Westhampton Congregational Church.

The Trustees' budget request for the coming fiscal year represents what the Trustees believe to be the minimum needed to continue providing quality library services to Westhampton and to maintain Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Elis Whiting, Chair
Lynn Cooper, Treasurer
Sarah K. Mulvehill, Secretary
Andrea Belanger
Carol McMurrich
Maureen Dempsey
Board of Trustees

REPORT OF LIBRARY FUNDS

Library funds in the custody of the Town Treasurer in the Library gift accounts at the beginning of fiscal year 2011 totaled $12,956.73.

During fiscal year 2011, gifts in the amount of $3,267.81 were received from Friends of the Western Mass Regional Library System, Sage Books, the Reynolds family, the Singer family, Susan Bir, Karla Stefansson, and several in memory of Gilbert Andrews. . Expenditures to support the library totaled $2,230.12, leaving a balance in the gift accounts of $13,994.42 at the end of the fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons, Town Treasurer

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent Craig Jurgensen reports that the schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had a productive and reaffirming year while also addressing the challenges facing public schools and teachers. The collaboration and coordination between and among the District's five schools has been reaffirmed. School administrators continued working together to demonstrate and embrace contributions that improve coordination, collaboration, and communication among the schools of the Hampshire Regional Public Schools that will also support continually improving student performance and welfare, professional development, and instructional strategies to address the needs of all learners. As a District, all of our school staff work conscientiously with commitment and purpose to uphold our responsibility to teach students to read, write, speak well, and calculate, as we also embrace our increasing responsibility to address "21st Century Learning Skills" including critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration paired with an integration of emerging technologies. The following report highlights some of the programs, events, and activities undertaken to promote excellence in achievement and to support our students' success as life-long learners and responsible participants in our society.

To promote student achievement it is critical that our schools hire thoughtful, creative, and effective school leaders. In addition to hiring outstanding new teachers in 2011, new principals were hired at Hampshire Regional High School and at the Williamsburg Elementary Schools. Dr. Laurie Hodgdon left her position as Co-Principal at the Milton, Vermont Middle/High School joined the Hampshire Regional staff in July. Stacey Jenkins, Westhampton native and active community member, accepted the principal's job at Anne T. Dunphy and Helen E. James Schools after five successful years as a principal in the Pioneer Valley Regional School District. Also joining the District administrative team, as the Assistant Principal for Middle Level Programming and Academic Affairs at HRHS was Kristen Bouley who previously worked at Duggan Middle School in Springfield.

On August 31, 2011, the staff of the Hampshire Regional Schools attended the annual Convocation Day at Hampshire Regional High School for the "Sharing of Promising Practices" which highlighted several of the innovative practices school staff is using to increase student engagement and achievement. Principal Michael Fredette and reading teacher Katherine First, Chesterfield-Goshen Elementary

School, focused on "Universal Screening, Progress Monitoring, and Data Driven Instruction." John Heffernan, Technology Educator, Williamsburg Public Schools: "Robotics and other STEM Initiatives" Kevin Hodgson, 6th Grade Teacher, Southampton Elementary School: "Connecting Students to the World" Amy Cyr, Nicole Rainville, and Andrea Belanger, Hampshire Regional High School: "Compassionate Math". Convocation, bringing together all of the District's talented and committed staff, at the beginning of the new school year reinforced the connections of each of our schools to one another and, in turn, their connection to accepting the challenges, rewards, and of working together to achieve common goals.

The District's goals were reaffirmed through numerous coordinated projects and initiatives. The District's teacher mentoring program (Beginning Educators' Support and Training – BEST) that was started at Norris School was expanded to include new teaches from all four elementary schools. BEST brings each new teacher together with a mentor teacher who work in tandem to build community, learn and understand the culture and policies of each school, and to provide resources for ongoing personal and professional growth. In short, BEST strives to provide support and ensure success for new teachers. The District has found that providing this type of support to new teachers and administrators during their first years of teaching is a critical support for the professional growth and development of our newly hired staff.

The importance of implementing a district-wide (preK-12) curriculum aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks moved forward with a project that promotes preschool to eighth grade curriculum articulation and coordination, a web-based curriculum mapping project, and teaching concepts completely and in-depth so that students have a deep understanding of curriculum. Staff, parents, and students refocused efforts to structure and expand the supports provided to sixth grade students as they transition to HRHS. Outreach activities to students and their parents/guardians were enriched with visits by current HRHS students to our elementary schools and community events and complemented with increased opportunities for sixth grade students to visit HRHS. Scheduling these events, professional development activities, as well as other activities and opportunities that deepen our appreciation for working together, was made easier by the work of our school administrators who worked closely together to streamline and coordinate school calendars for increased consistency and continuity.

The District continued its commitment to a strong, student-centered and positive school climate. Our "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan" was approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and we continue to provide support for parents and students on topics such as "Bullying: Community Approach", "Internet Safe and Smart" and "Internet Safety & Cyberbullying".

We continue to be proud of our student performance record and the achievement of our students which individual school principals have written about in their annual reports. For parents who are interested in broader access to student performance data, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has several useful tools and informational components to their website. Interested parents should look at the DESE website (www.doe.mass.edu) and then select "School/District Profiles" for information and comparison of school and district data. Specific information about MCAS, the Student Growth Model and other assessment topics can be found under "Assessment and Accountability".

The Williamsburg School Building Committee continued to work with The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to complete a feasibility study and schematic designs of a renovation/addition project at the Anne T. Dunphy School. The work of the Committee is just one example of the energy, commitment and support our students receive from the residents of our five towns.

Last year's winter weather was slow in arriving but when it came it did so with ferocity and regularity. We had a snow storm each weekend for a month beginning mid-January 2011 which was followed by unpredictable ice. Although our schools were not directly impacted by the tornado June 1st, our students rallied to support students, schools, and families living in the storm's path. Then, in September Hurricane Irene caused significant disruption which was followed in October by the surprise of a "Halloween Snow Storm" that closed all of our schools and brought our towns to a standstill for a week. The work of town crews – as well as those from other towns, and states – helped us weather all of these storms safely so that we could return to work and school.

Our work together in the schools and communities is complex, sometimes overwhelming, and yet unquestionably essential and rewarding. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our

students, their families, and the communities in which we work. What is more is that we are increasingly coming together as a "Hampshire Regional Community" and engaging in shared commitment for improving the opportunities available to our children. I encourage you to visit the individual school's or Superintendent's website for current news and information about our students and District activities. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call me.

Respectfully Submitted by
Craig Jurgensen
Superintendent of Schools

Pupil Services Annual Report 2010-2011

During the 2010-2011 school year the Pupil Services Department of the Hampshire Regional School District provided support services to approximately 318 special needs students in district buildings or in out-of-district placements, 37 Smith Vocational School special needs students, 22 English Language Learners, 240 504 Accommodation Plan students, and 5 homeless students. Services were provided within the District's five public schools as well as in specialized programs in the region. These services consisted of educational assistance and remediation aligned with the established regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), policies and laws for educating students with limited English proficiency and the McKinney-Vento Act for serving homeless students. Direct related services included the following: speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and mobility therapy, support for students with hearing impairments, therapies for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and support/training for their families, counseling, and behavior management. The district also funded day and residential special education programs for 19 eligible students.

Special education students receiving services in the district were provided access to each school's curriculum. The least restrictive environment concept, mandated through regulatory language in IDEA and considered best practice, provides for special education within our schools. All of our elementary schools have developed inclusion classrooms and/or specific subjects where students are taught using a

co-teaching model with the regular classroom teacher and the special education teacher. There was ongoing decision making at TEAM meetings, focusing on determining eligibility and meeting the program needs of eligible students. Agreements between parents and the school regarding programming were made in approximately 500 TEAM meetings. There were two TEAM meetings in which there was a need for mediation or intervention by the Bureau of Special Education Appeals. Staff efforts resulted in student success within the district's special education services. Assistance from teachers, administrators, support staff, paraprofessionals, and consultants contributed to the gains made in well-run inclusion-based services.

The Life Skills program at Hampshire Regional High School, serving students from 7th grade to age 22 with cognitive impairments and multiple disabilities, has continued to experience significant expansion to serve an increased number of students at middle school age. Participation in this program provides students with ongoing access to a pragmatically based academic program as well as education in skills needed for daily independent living, vocational and social success. Students are placed in community based jobs with coaches who provide them with guidance and support, allowing for immediate feedback while learning in an environment where skills are practiced in "real time".

In addition, the Norris Elementary School continues to offer a daily pragmatics class for 5th and 6th graders that incorporates communication skills, gross motor skills that build the capacity to learn, introductions to activities of daily living, and review of basic math and reading skills into one program. The class has provided an opportunity for students with multiple disabilities to receive integrated direct instruction in areas critical to their development as productive adults.

Our district preschools continue to do an exceptional job serving young students with disabilities in an inclusion setting. Our programs are language-based and provide intensive related services within the typical preschool setting giving all children an enriched program and allowing students to maximize the development of peer related social skills and readiness for academic learning.

The Pupil Services Department continues to provide a wide array of training and in-service opportunities during the school year. Training was provided in the areas of working with children on the Autism Spectrum, special education regulations and the development of IEPs,

restraint training, the development of MCAS alternative assessment portfolios, reading and writing instruction, and the instruction of English Language Learners. Preschool teachers met regularly to enhance their individual work at their respective schools through sharing strategies and aligning curriculum/assessment for all district preschool students.
Additionally, the Pupil Services Department has actively engaged in efforts to establish and maintain an active Parent Advisory Council.

The breadth and depth of services and programs offered to the students of the Hampshire Regional School District is formidable and provided by skilled faculty working as a team with parents, classroom teachers, community members, and administrators. We continue to strengthen these services through aligning our approach to remediation in the primary subject areas, further implementation of school-wide curriculum based assessment and the development of student goals based on data, and the training of classroom teachers in areas necessary to enable them to reach all students in their classrooms more effectively.

Submitted by:

Laurie Farkas
Director of Pupil Services

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL

Dear Families and Friends of HRHS,

I am proud and honored to be the new principal of Hampshire Regional High School. I join Mr. Mark Folta, assistant principal, and Ms. Kristen Bouley, new assistant principal, leading the Hampshire Regional High School Learning Community into the future. We would like to express a heartfelt "Thank You" from the school community for your continued support of learning at HRHS. Due to your strong support we are able to offer a breadth of learning opportunities across classrooms, labs, stages, fields, courts and online. As more and more people around the world become educated and access to information grows exponentially it is imperative that the HRHS community continue to shape the education of our students for this changing world. Continued advocacy from the community of HRHS, even in the shadow of a challenging

economy, demonstrates your resolve to improve learning for our students.

2011 was a year of challenge and opportunity. The dismal economic situation left our school communities with the formidable task of providing the excellent education we all want and expect—with increasingly shrinking resources.

We started formal budget work as early as October. We met together for extended meetings to plan thoughtfully and strategically for the reductions we all knew would have to come. While this was grueling and heart-wrenching work, it does provide the opportunity for all of us to come to consensus around the basic elements of a quality education. We understand more than ever how very important it is for our students to have a common educational foundation at the pre-K-8 level so that they enter HRHS having had the same educational opportunities. This year's focused work brought specific clarity to what we have always known—it is in the best interests of all of our students for us to coordinate and align our work—even, and perhaps especially, when we are contemplating reductions. In the end, I believe that the budget being presented represents the desire of the community for austerity AND the preservation of excellence. I was careful to stay away from cuts that would decimate our system.

Our goal is to continually improve our systems of support and delivery of instruction so that all of our students are engaged in rigorous and engaging learning. This belief guides our decision-making as we prepare students to navigate the future. We will continue to explore what we teach and how people learn to support students for a world that changes so rapidly. We live in a world that values the ability to understand other cultures, apply complex and critical thinking skills, exhibit teamwork and leadership qualities, access reliable information and utilize appropriate technologies. As many call for sweeping changes in education, HRHS will move thoughtfully as we embark upon significant change in our learning organization. We must blend what we know improves student learning with research, technology and cost-sensitivity. Above all we must keep the focus on all HRHS students and continue to foster multiple paths for students to experience success through appropriate academic rigor and with appropriate support. Specifically, our learning will encompass three tenets that we believe will enhance student learning:

- Instruction
    - This area focuses on curriculum, instruction and assessment via differentiation, standards-based instruction & assessment, formative & summative assessment methodology, and integrated learning.
- Opportunities
    - This area is developing standards-based Extended Learning Opportunities through the mediums of on-line learning, internships/apprenticeships, independent studies, college courses and self-directed & interest-based learning.
- Communication
    - This area challenges teachers and students to develop and implement a standards-based e-portfolio system that empowers students to capture and convey essential information about their skills, strengths, challenges, goals, interests and learning styles. This essential information will be used by students, teachers and parents to reflect, share and plan for the future.

The HRHS Learning Community has consistently demonstrated their support for learning and high expectations for students and staff. Our students and educators work collaboratively and creatively to reveal depth in content and skills while compassionately addressing whatever arises in the complex world of adolescence. I feel immeasurably grateful to work with such a dedicated and caring group of students and staff who never cease to amaze!

It is my privilege to serve the students and families of Hampshire Regional School District. It is an honor to work with the teachers, administrators, and school committee whose collective efforts are singularly focused on achieving the very best results. I look forward to my continued work with all of you.

Laurie A. Hodgdon, Ed.D, Principal
Hampshire Regional Middle & High School

School Enrollment 2011

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrollment	148	159	133	114	142	139

School Committee Members for 2010-11

Donald Abel
Diane Bishop
Barry Brandow
Sarah Christiansen
Patricia Colson-Montgomery, Chair
William Curran
Nancy Curtis
Vanessa Fish
Todd Haskell, Alternate
Jessica McConnell
Joseph Moynahan
David Nardi
Karl Norris
Jennifer Peotter
David Pesuit
Irene Ryan
Carl Schlerman
Kim Schott
Angela Valinski
Tarin Weiss, Alternate

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As Principal of the Westhampton Elementary School I am pleased to report on a very positive school year to our community. Over the last several years, I have seen a trend of continued improvement in our educational program. Our School offers a high quality educational experience to the children of the Westhampton school community. I am pleased to be part of such a highly effective and professional school staff. As you may be aware, strict Federal and State education reform laws continue to influence local decisions involving our school committee and district wide administration. New changes in laws concerning teacher evaluation, along with recent revisions to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks provide a framework for the bulk of our district wide initiatives for the coming year.

As part of the No Child Left Behind Act, our students are required to meet yearly testing targets to determine if a school is making "adequate yearly progress". This year, Westhampton students once again met these challenging performance targets. In fact, Westhampton Elementary was once again designated as a Commendation School for Outstanding Growth and Achievement. We were one of eight schools in Western Massachusetts to earn this distinction. Students in grades 3 - 6 ranked among the top classes in the state in M.C.A.S testing. Although our staff and I are proud of this success, we recognize that testing represents only one piece of a successful elementary school experience.

We have had several changes in our staffing over the past year. We have hired a new reading teacher, Erin Wheeler. Erin recently completed certification as a reading specialist in Massachusetts. The reading specialist's job was formally a part time position held most recently by Mrs. Pajak. We have hired Amy Avakian as our school nurse replacing Lynn Sherry. Amy most recently was a school nurse in Williamsburg and has two daughters attending our school. Mrs. Sherry resigned her position to accept another job. Jimmy Ilson is our new art teacher, replacing Joanne Lucia. Mr. Ilson has a rich and diverse background in visual arts and has taught art at the Hartsbrook School since 1995. Cynthia Boyle rejoins our staff as a part time preschool aide.

Safety continues to be a major focus of our work together. Our staff and students worked with local fire and police as well as representatives, from the state police and Northwestern District Attorney's office to improve and refine our safety plan in the event of an emergency. Again this year we had opportunities to practice fire drills and a lock down drill with support from emergency service personnel. These drills are an important part of emergency preparedness. Officer Phil provided training for students in grades pre-school through 4th grade in personal safety, and making good choices. We continue to update and refine our policies and practices regarding life threatening allergies and responding to crisis situations at recess. All of our staff members have received training in responding to these types of emergencies. I want to express appreciation to Police Chief Dave White and Fire Chief Chris Norris, school committee member Ashleigh Norris and all members of our local emergency services for their dedication and support in helping our students and staff make our school a safe place for children.

Finally, we continue with our bullying education and awareness program, led by our school adjustment counselor Emilie Woodward. All of our staff has skills necessary to help students to engage in successful conflict resolution.

We are continuing to build a comprehensive technology program. Many of our teachers are now using our new wireless mobile computer lab as part of their regular instruction. For example, first grade has been using them to better understand math concepts, and fifth and sixth grades have been using them to enhance their writing process. We have recently acquired another ten laptops and a new cart to house the computers. In addition to the use of our mobile lab, many of our

teachers are integrating interactive projectors, document cameras and similar technologies into their daily classroom instruction. The integration of technology is helping our students and teachers access our curriculum in creative and interesting ways.

The job of a teacher is dynamic. Each year, our staff sets goals collectively and individually to improve their practice and stay current in the field of education. Having staff participate in regular high quality professional development in an essential piece of a successful school. Over last summer, a group of staff members joined me in taking a course in Response to Intervention. We have begun implementing some of these strategies to help us track students' growth and measure the effectiveness of various interventions and approaches to help students learn more effectively and efficiently.

Again this year many staff members had the opportunity to attend the National Literacy Conference in Rhode Island. This event allows teachers to be exposed to new ideas, and collaborate and plan new learning opportunities for their classroom. Shelby Marowitz, our first grade teacher, is sharing her classroom duties this year with Colleen Gilbert while participating in a year long training in Reading Recovery. This training is grant funded and will expand our ability to coordinate and individualize reading instruction in our early grades. Other staff members are busy taking courses and participating in training in math and science. Over the summer, our staff was trained in the Story Grammar Marker Program. This approach will help students and staff by providing a common language for use in discussing and teaching elements of text and writing. It will serve as a useful bridge connecting reading and writing in Pre K through sixth grades and helping to ease transition issues. Our teaching staff is working hard to stay current in their field and implement best practices each day in their classroom.

We continue to focus our efforts on improving our educational program. We have implemented new programs in reading and have recently expanded and refined our fifth grade reading program using the Scott Foresman reading program. The Foresman curriculum has been successfully implemented in the third and fourth grades with some very encouraging results. Over the last few years we have been working to develop a more cohesive and extensive curriculum. We have implemented new curriculum approaches and programs in mathematics, reading, and writing. We are continuing work in improving assessment strategies and progress reporting systems. I am proud of the work we have accomplished.

The PTO is an important part of our school. Our PTO raises money for a variety of purposes, such as field trips and special performances for our students. They also help to enrich our school community by helping plan and sponsor special events like Grandparents' Day and Fun Day. A major focus for our PTO this year is to raise money for a new play structure. If you would like take part in the PTO, or if you have great ideas of your own that may benefit our school community, consider attending one of the their monthly meetings.

In recent years, the School Choice Program has enabled us to have another source of revenue and helped us to continue to be more responsive to student needs. We will always to do our best to meet the needs of our families and be fiscally responsible. We will continue to be a source of pride for our community.

Enrollment at Westhampton Elementary:

Grade	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Enrollment	18	13	22	20	14	19	14	18

School Committee Members:

Tarin Weiss, chair
Ashleigh Norris
Irene Ryan (January - May 2011)
Jamiee Roncone (September - December 2011)

Respectfully submitted,

Deane Bates, Principal

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Hampshire Council of Governments (The Council) is a membership based organization that solves common challenges through regional solutions while retaining local control over local affairs. The total budget for FY 2011 was $7.856 million. The combined dues for the Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2011 were $27,904. The remaining budget is funded by our programs and services and specific Federal Grants. The Council receives no aid from the Commonwealth and exists to save taxpayer money by employing regional solutions and the power of bulk purchasing for a variety of goods and services. It is the continued goal of the Council to increase revenues from a variety of sources to offset the reduced assessment and to expand services.

The Council achieved several key goals in 2011.

- Zero percent increase in health insurance premiums for the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust.
- The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provided almost 124,000 hours of service to our communities, equaling a contribution of more than $3.2 million.
- Town of Hadley rejoined Council membership.
- Completion of Courthouse building evaluation for future renovations, repairs, and preservation.
- Sustainability Department created.
- Reorganization of Regional Services and Planning and addition of a new Director.
- Hired Marketing and Branding Consultant to create new rebrand organization and create a revised web page.
- Strategic Plan revised and expanded.
- Solar Renewable Energy Certificates Aggregation
- Municipal Accounting and Bookkeeping service
- Historic records moved to UMass Archives.

Administration

In January 2011 the Councilors hired a new Executive Director to reinvigorate the Council, to create new programs and services, complete a strategic plan, and increase revenue. The focus of the Executive Director has been membership benefits, how the Council functions as a governmental entity and a business, marketing, membership expansion,

and encouraging support of local businesses. Staff submitted and was awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to conduct a pre-development evaluation of the structural integrity and necessary restoration and repairs of the Courthouse. The result of the evaluation showed significant areas of deterioration and the Councilors were informed that the cost to restore the Courthouse would be in excess of $3.7 million. In the coming years the Council will be requesting financial support from local, state, and federal funding sources because the building is owned by the 'inhabitants of Hampshire County' and is our shared historic legacy.

Staff worked with the Executive Director to update the Council's Personnel Policies to bring the Council up to current best practices and to provide support and guidance for the philosophical shifts that are required of the organization in order to remain vibrant and financially sustainable. The Council worked with Hampshire County Selectmen to revive the Hampshire County Selectmen's Association. Staff hopes to continue this mutually beneficial support of the organization.

The Council was pleased to welcome the Town of Hadley as 1a returning Council member. The Towns of Hatfield and South Hadley also voted favorably to rejoining the Council July 1, 2011. For the second year in a row, the Councilors awarded two scholarships to help support graduating high school students who have demonstrated civic and community involvement and maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

Electricity

Fiscal Year 2011 was a pivotal year for the Council's Electricity Department. With the increasing number of customers and load, the Council contracted with Energy New England for purchasing services. This technical expertise was sought in order to decrease risk in purchasing energy from the spot market and decrease the ancillary charges associated with market purchases. This proved to be a timely and wise decision due to increases in certain market related charges. The department increased its staff with the appointment of a Municipal Aggregation (MA) Specialist. During the year this specialist visited over thirty towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties explaining this type of aggregation program to Boards of Selectmen. Staff also attended Town Meetings which included MA on their warrants, to educate communities about choices in purchasing electricity. The MA Plan, which was signed by twenty two towns, was sent to the

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) in June. To increase energy purchasing services, the Council also voted to make application to the DPU for an Electricity Broker's License. This will enable the program to become even more competitive with the Fixed Price Plan.

Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (The Trust)

In a year when many towns are facing double-digit rate increases in health insurance premiums, our towns once again held their costs down through a zero percent increase. With the Trust premiums remaining flat our member towns were better able to utilize any increase in town funds to cover other expenses. The Hampshire Councilors serve as the trustees of the Trust, a cooperative effort to provide health and life insurance with excellent benefits at competitive rates. An Insurance Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions and to explore new ideas. The Trust manages a self-funded group of health insurance products. In the Insurance Year 2011 (April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011), the collective premium for the Trust was $47M. Through the efforts and expertise of the Trust management, the volume of participation in the program, and the participation of the town representatives on the Advisory Board, the Trust is successful at managing costs while providing excellent benefits. The Trust insured 4,524 employees and their dependents.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties is the Council's community service program that mobilizes adults age 55+ to meet community needs by recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers in a diverse array of service opportunities at local non-profit and public agencies. RSVP matches people with experience and skills to offer with organizations that need their help. The program benefits the senior population by keeping them active and engaged, and benefits our region by bringing these volunteers' dedication, wisdom, and expertise to bear on our communities' most pressing needs.

During FY11, RSVP brought on 154 new volunteers bringing our total volunteer force to 675. These volunteers gave almost 124,000 hours of service to our communities, equaling a contribution of more than $3.2 million. RSVP Volunteers serve at hospitals, nursing homes, schools,

libraries, after school programs, survival centers, and senior centers in towns across the two counties.

The following are some examples of the impact RSVP volunteers are having on our communities:

- During the reporting period 20 volunteers worked with students in schools and after school programs to improve academic skills.
- Through RSVP's Osteoporosis Exercise Program, 57 volunteers led weekly strength training classes for 424 seniors.
- 126 volunteers increased food security in our region by providing food to more than 800 elders.
- 278 volunteers improved the quality of life for more than 11,000 seniors by leading activities and providing information at senior centers.

Regional Services and Planning

The Regional Services Department develops regional approaches to problems shared by Hampshire County municipalities. During FY2011 the department secured surplus federal equipment for various Massachusetts municipalities and state entities. The current net savings of property delivered to member communities for Fiscal Year 2011, after fees and delivery charges, totaled $8,200. Net program income from fees was $5,400.00. Member communities receive a discount on the fees, as well as the right of first refusal on higher quality pieces of equipment obtained through the surplus program. The Department also incorporates the Hampshire Inspection Program, which provided building inspection and zoning enforcement services to the towns of Huntington, Goshen, Chesterfield and Middlefield, as well as backup and auxiliary service to other communities, on an as-needed basis.

The Cooperative Purchasing program, is celebrating its 30th year serving the purchasing needs of Western Massachusetts' communities and school districts. At the end of FY 11, the Program was moved to the Regional Services and Planning Department. The program coordinates and administers a formal bidding process on behalf of Council departments, municipalities, school districts, human service agencies, and miscellaneous governmental entities throughout the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire County region. Buying in bulk generates added savings over lone bidding efforts while complying with state procurement statutes and eliminating duplication

of administrative work. The total purchasing volume for goods and services for Fiscal Year 2011 was $6,055,849.08 with a projected savings of $716,826.27.

Wellness Initiative Program

The Wellness Initiative is a worksite wellness program promoting healthier choices and behaviors amongst employees. There are 65 municipal worksites, including 26 in Hampshire County, who participate the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust which provides health insurance for about 5000 subscribers and their families.

The Wellness Initiative utilizes health risk data and employees' needs and interest surveys to develop program strategies to address the risk factors of the insured. During 2011 eight (8) mini grants were awarded to fund Worksite Wellness Teams, five of these mini grants were awarded to worksites in Hampshire County, Belchertown School District, Gateway Regional School district in Huntington, Hampshire Council of Governments, Hampshire Regional School District in Westhampton, and South Hadley Fire District #2. These teams develop and implement the wellness programs at their worksite, using the data to develop evidence based programs to address the risks of their populations.

A few of the programs support by the Wellness Initiative included:

- Spring Challenge – 225 participated in this physical fitness challenge by walking, biking, raking leaves running logging thousands of hours, steps and miles.
- Passport to Health – screenings conducted at worksites to help employees know and understand their biometric numbers
- Nutrition programs including "Start your day the healthy way "and Healthy Local Potlucks
- Colonoscopy Promotion – a yearlong promotion beginning in April 2011 to encourage our subscribers to have a colonoscopy – for both prevention and diagnostic reasons – colonoscopies save lives.

Sustainability Department

In June 2011 the Hampshire Council of Governments created the position of Sustainability Director and hired Eric Weiss to promote green energy development and energy conservation projects throughout the Western Massachusetts region. The Council believes in local first as

the prime green development option. The Council supports local businesses, farmers, homeowners and municipalities in their ongoing efforts to develop green energy projects and reduce their carbon footprints. The Council is involved in a long term effort to support the local and regional economy and help it to become more sustainable.

The HCOG sustainability program already is;

- A Massachusetts registered broker for Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECS). The minimal 4% brokering fee charged for this important service will be reinvested by the "Council" locally.
- Engaged in creating a large multi-county RFP to promote the development of solar PV projects in Municipalities throughout Western Massachusetts.
- Assisting Communities in their efforts to become Massachusetts designated "Green Communities' by Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).
- Seeking to create and explore regional partnerships and grants opportunities with other Towns, institutions and organizations outside of Hampshire County to promote its sustainability goals.

The Tobacco Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire and Franklin County Tobacco Free Community Partnership (TFCP) supports communities efforts to lower smoking prevalence and exposure to secondhand smoke; enhancing state and local tobacco control efforts by exposing tobacco industry tactics, mobilizing the community to support and adopt evidence-based policies, and changing social norms. Funded by the Massachusetts Cessation and Prevention program, Community Partnerships serves as a resource for local coalitions, health and human service agencies, municipalities, and workplaces on tobacco intervention efforts. The 5 core goals of the tobacco control program are: 1) Ensure access to safe and effective cessation resources for all Massachusetts residents; 2) Protect Massachusetts' young people from tobacco industry tactics; 3) Increase the Price of Tobacco; 4) Ensure all health care visits include a tobacco intervention; and 5) Advance a smoke free environment for all Massachusetts residents. During FY 2011, seven new youth chapters of the 84 were established at local high schools (Ware High School, Smith Vocational and Agricultural School, Northampton High School, South Hadley High School, Easthampton High and Turners Falls High

School). The Ex-Smokers Hall of Fame was on display at Cooley Dickinson Hospital for the month of July and we were able to reach out to folks who were looking for a cessation program. The tobacco program has also received an additional $22,000 for the smoke free housing strategy, a project that began as a pilot in 2007. There have been new listings added to our smoke free apartment's website, smoke free housing presentations to landlords and housing authorities as well as educational visits with local legislators. An additional priority during FY 2011 was increased knowledge and awareness of OTP (Other Tobacco Products). The products themselves, placement, pricing and packaging are all geared toward youth. It is the goal of the Tobacco Free Community Partnership to inform parents, legislators, educators and other concerned adults that these products exist and the tobacco industry is targeting our youth. Presentation to schools, coalitions and legislators within Hampshire and Franklin Counties began in January and will ongoing.

For further information on Council programs, expenses, and revenues, please contact the Councilors' Office at 413-584-1300 ext. 2. You may also visit the Council website at www.hampshirecog.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Ford
Executive Director
Hampshire Council of Governments

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS	FY12	Proposed F13
Selectboard Chairman	1425	1450
Others	1225	1250
Board of Assessors Chairman	2725	2725
Others	2475	2475
Board of Health	1575	1650
Tax Collector	13325	13658
Treasurer	13325	13658
Auditor	375	400
Moderator	375	400
School Committee Chairman	405	430
Others	375	400
Tree Warden	525	550
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer	11395	11680
Animal Inspector	709	734
Veterans Agent	1500	1538
Administrative Assistant	15884	16281
Assessor Assistant	$19.38/hr.	19.86
Assessor's Secretary	15.00/hr.	15.38/hr.
Town Clerk	10000	10250
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	100	100
Health Agent	15.38	15.76
Building Inspector	8713	8931
Wiring	30/inspection	30/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	20/inspection	20/inspection
Sanitation Inspector	25/inspection	25/inspection
Election Workers	8.20/hr.	8.41/hr.
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A	21.68	22.18
Grade 1	20.66	21.16
Superintendent	55220	56601
LANDFILL Caretaker	11.03	11.31/hr.
LIBRARY Director	41699	42741
Staff Librarian	14.01/hour	14.36/hour
Custodian	10.00/hour	10.25/hour
Substitutes	9.22/hour	9.45/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian	11.31/hour	11.59/hour
Snow Removal	15.38/hour	15.76/hour
POLICE CHIEF	20932	25612
Officers – Regular	13.46/hour	15.00/hour
Sergeant	15.61/hour	18.00/hour
Court	16.14/hour	16.54/hour
FIRE CHIEF	10,000	10,250
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	341	366
CEMETERY CARETAKER	5471	5608

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2013

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2012	FY2013
Counsel Fees	8000	8000
Moderator	375	400
Selectboard Salary	3875	3950
Selectboard Expense	3700	3750
Administrative Assistant	15884	16281
Auditor Salary	375	400
Accounting Officer Salary	11395	11680
Accounting Office Expense	2529	2685
Audit	7000	6500
Assessor Salary	7675	7675
Assessor Expense	7275	18200
Assessor Assistant	13999	14350
Assessor Secretary	945	969
Treasurer Salary	13325	13658
Treasurer Expense	5004	4875
Tax Collector Salary	13325	13658
Tax Collector Expense	10911	11875
Town Clerk Salary	10000	10250
Town Clerk Expense	4020	4000
Clerk, Board of Registrars	100	100
Conservation Commission	200	150
Zoning Board Expense	600	600
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	4000	4000
Highway Salaries	189625	194366
Highway Materials	74630	91719
Road Machinery	40650	40824
Road Machinery Fuel	35700	40800
Snow Removal	75000	102000
Road Machinery Buildings	19820	27748
Backhoe	98000	
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS	1072209	1109519
HRHS Capital	80787	81317
Vocational Tuition	235000	279300
Vocational Transportation	42383	42638
Elementary School	1290080	1327229
School Committee Salary	1155	1230
Library	72289	81733
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	7500	7500
Veterans Agent Salary	1500	1538

Memorial Day	200	200
Cultural Council	75	75
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	5471	5608
PROT. OF PERS & PROP		
Police Chief	20932	25612
Police Department	31544	45528
Police Capital	0	5300
Fire Chief	10000	10250
Emergency Mgt Director	341	366
Fire Department	18344	25700
Safety Complex	12515	13425
Fire air foam system	0	30000
Fire utility pickup	0	32040
Emergency Medical Services	15050	16150
Inspector Salary	13512	13231
Inspector Expense	1250	1250
Tree Warden Expense	1500	2000
Tree Warden Salary	525	550
Animal Inspector	709	734
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop.	4269	4269
Board of Health Salary	1575	1650
Board of Health Expense	68680	73060
Health Agent	8200	6200
Compactor	0	25000
DEBT & INTEREST		
Long Term Debt	125000	130000
Interest Long Term Debt	44300	39300
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	62000	66000
Town Offices	18240	20800
Council on Aging	1200	3200
COA Coordinator	1000	1063
Historical	1200	1200
Blacksmith Shop Roof		10000
County Retirement	123875	127163
Council of Governments	1521	1521
Courthouse Renovation		12098
Pioneer Valley Planning Council	221	242
Unemployment (Article 15)	15000	16000
Group Insurance	320000	315000
Medicare	22000	24000
Reserve Fund	10000	10000
TOTAL	4451289	4703452

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting
JUNE 2, 2012 Annual Election

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve the ensuing year, and vote on Questions 1, 2 and 3.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept by unanimous consent and without debate the following five articles or any combination of them: Article 3, Care of the Highways, Article 16, Unemployment Benefits; Article 17, Chapter 90 Highway Funds; Article 18, Fire Department Revolving Fund; Article 19, Cemetery Revolving Fund.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 5: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2013, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2013, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a utility truck for the Fire Department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to retro-fit Fire Engine 1 with a Compressed Air Foam System and new 2" attack hose, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to purchase and set up an additional trash compacter at the Transfer Station, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for a computer and accessories for the Police Department vehicles, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide $16,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment

benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a $190,381 from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund in not to exceed $3000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed $8000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to repair and replace the roof on the Blacksmith Shop Museum, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money for Town's share of the cost to restore the Hampshire County Courthouse, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32, section 85 H1/2, relating to disability pensions for Police and Fire personnel, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, section 111M, relating to leave without loss of pay for EMTs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, section 111N, related to payment of medical bills for EMTs injured on duty, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton General Bylaw as follows:

Amend Article 7 Miscellaneous Provisions Section 1 Town Caucus as follows by changing 7-1-1 "The Town Caucus for the nomination of officers shall be held on the last Monday in April" to read "The Town Caucus for the nomination of officers shall be held on the second Monday in April." , or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 29 : To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.41, §1B, to make the elected position of Town Treasurer an appointed Town Treasurer, with such appointment to be made by the Selectboard for a term not to exceed three years; provided, however that before such change may take effect, the change must be approved by the voters of the Town at the 2013 Annual Town Election, and further, that any individual elected to the position of Town Treasurer at the 2013 Annual Town Election shall hold said office and perform the duties thereof only until such time as the appointment to said office is otherwise made, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30 : To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.41, §1B, to make the elected position of Tax Collector an appointed Tax Collector, with such appointment to be made by the Selectboard for a term not to exceed three years; provided, however that before such change may take effect, the change must be approved by the voters of the Town at the 2013 Annual Town Election, and further, that any individual elected to the position of Tax Collector at the 2013 Annual Town Election shall hold said office and perform the duties thereof only until such time as the appointment to said office is otherwise made, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Westhampton Zoning Bylaw as follows:

To amend Section 5.6 MOBILE HOMES, by adding sub-section 5.62
5.62 A landowner constructing a new dwelling unit, or the owner or occupier of a residence which is undergoing renovation, may, with a Special Permit from the Board of Appeals, place a trailer or mobile home on the site of such residence and may reside in such trailer or mobile home for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. Such temporary trailer or mobile home shall be subject to the provisions of Title V, the State Sanitary Code.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 12th

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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